

5 Abstract of the Disclosure

 An adaptive variable-length coding/decoding method performs
 an optimal variable-length coding and decoding depending on an intra
 mode/inter mode condition, quantization step size and a current zigzag
10 scanning position, such that a plurality of variable-length coding
 tables having different patterns of a regular region and an escape
 region according to statistical characteristics of the run level data
 are set. One of the variable-length coding tables is selected
 according to mode, quantization step size and scanning position, and
15 the orthogonal transform coefficients according to the selected
 variable-length coding table are variable-length-coded.

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